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Letter dated 14 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the communiqué in which the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo calls on the forces of the Mai-Mai and the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD)-Goma to observe the ceasefire in the province of South Kivu.

My Government requests that you circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-63911 (E) 151002 151002

Annex to the letter dated 14 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Democratic Republic of the Congo
Ministry of Communications and the Press

Office of the Minister

Communiqué from the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Government invites the Mai-Mai and RCD-Goma to observe the ceasefire in South Kivu

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is following closely the worrying situation existing in the province of South Kivu in the eastern part of the country.

Various sources report heavy fighting between Mai-Mai and RCD-Goma troops in the vicinity of the major cities, in particular Uvira.

This very serious situation could jeopardize the peace process currently under way, for which the Government of the Republic and the Congolese people have made great efforts and sacrifices.

In light of the ongoing withdrawal of foreign troops, on the one hand, and the considerable progress made to date towards a comprehensive and inclusive agreement, on the other, the Congolese people would be ill served by a new and pointless fratricidal war which could only add to the already very long list of innocent victims.

Accordingly, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo makes a solemn appeal to the Mai-Mai and RCD-Goma combatants to cease hostilities immediately and unconditionally in order to give peace a chance.

It also requests RCD-Goma to refrain from any act of provocation and calls on all the opposing forces to halt any troop movements which might aggravate the situation.

The Government stands ready to maintain useful contacts with all the parties concerned and calls for calm and vigilance on the part of the population living in that region of the country.

It further invites the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the third party to the Pretoria Agreement to reinforce their presence in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a view to prevailing on the parties to observe the ceasefire.

To that end, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo calls for the urgent holding of a meeting with the forces involved in this new crisis, civil society and the local churches in order to avoid any possible escalation of violence which would delay the conclusion of a comprehensive and inclusive agreement, the

only juridical framework for peaceful coexistence of the political and social forces during the transition.

Done at Kinshasa, on 14 October 2002.

(*Signed*) Kikaya **bin Karubi**
Ambassador
Minister of Communications and the Press
Government Spokesman